

THE WEST COLUMBIA BULLETIN

listen to

(Continued on last page)

what people are actually saying and find out what they actually believe. Folks, your kids and grandkids are being sold lies and errors, and sometimes it is in the not-so-subtle form of entertainment.

John Lennon was dead wrong. We don't need sappy, syrupy, accept-all-things-as-valid "love." We need the truth. The Beatles are no more (although a couple of them still breathe), but the world is as divided as it ever was, and loves them just as much. Lennon's brand of love didn't fix anything. However, Jesus said the truth of God's unchanging word sets men free from sin (John 8:32).

The truth is the only place where God's word can be found and understood. Jesus said that God's word is truth (John 17:17). David said that the word of God was so valuable that he committed it to memory so he would live by it (Psalms 119:11). The words of God are the light to our path (Psalms 119:105).

The truth is what points men to the real problem facing mankind - sin. We are taught that all men sin (Romans 3:23), and that sin leads each sinner to death (Romans 6:23). and they rail against authority, but the Bible says these worldly things are to be rejected (1 John 2:15).

The truth of God's word tells us that earthly, sensual pleasures drive men far from God and happiness. We are blessed, Jesus said when we "mourn" rather than when we celebrate (Matthew 5:4). Those who are poor in spirit are blessed (vs. 3). Those who are meek are blessed (vs. 5). Those who hunger and thirst or righteousness are blessed (vs. 6). Hedonists with guitars who sing ballads extolling the virtues of "love" and the pleasures of the flesh plant seeds of lust in the hearts of those who go about singing the catchy slogans and jingles present in popular songs.

Brethren, why are singers so idolized in our day? It seems its always been so. Why aren't those parents who teach their children the truth idolized? Why aren't the apostles our kids' heroes? Why isn't

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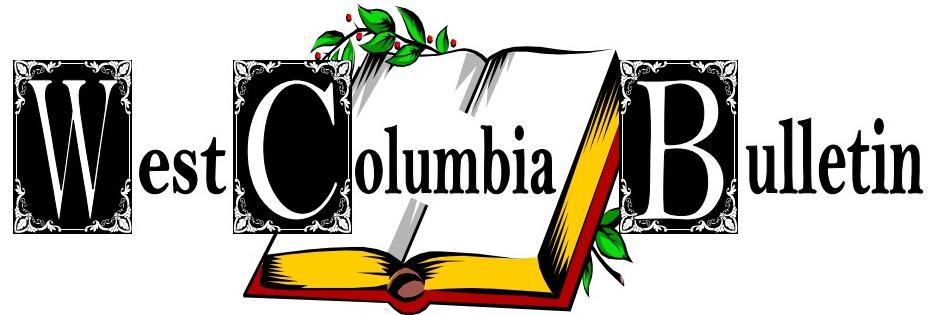
Schedule Of Services...

Sunday:

Bible Classes	9:00 a.m.
Worship	9:50 a.m.
Worship	6:00 p.m.

Wednesday:

Bible Classes	7:00 p.m.
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May 31, 2020

"All You Need Is Love"

David Weakens

The famous ballad: "All You Need Is Love" was written by John Lennon for the Beatles in 1967. It was first performed on a worldwide television broadcast in June 1967. The theme of the song very much was a product of its time. John Lennon was a pacifist and wanted to produce a song that was easily sung and easy to memorize and that young people would immediately love and sing endlessly. It is said that John Lennon believed there was great power in slogans. If you look at the lyrics of the song, that is all it is - sloganeering. Yes, it's simple, catchy, etc., but in the end John Lennon was selling to the world his brand of anarchy. Lennon rejected authority his whole life.

What many people do not know is that John Lennon was a fan of eastern mystical philosophies such as Hinduism

and Buddhism. He disavowed Christianity, and in the following famous quote, he all but declared himself an atheist: "*Christianity will go. It will vanish and shrink. I needn't argue with that; I'm right and I will be proved right. We're (meaning the Beatles - jdw) more popular than Jesus now; I don't know which will go first - rock 'n' roll or Christianity.*"

For those of you old enough to remember the 1960's you will remember that the Beatles were practically worshiped by the world's youth. John Lennon had reason to believe the myth of his own greatness. Unfortunately, the hero worship continues. Today, the Beatles are still regarded by many to be one of the greatest bands in history.

Where am I going with this? It is important for us to

JESUS

David Weak

His name was a common one in the first century, being a form of the name "Joseph." Although men today speak the name with reverence, in the first century, it was probably not so. He was not unique looking nor particularly beautiful. Isaiah said so: "...He has no form or comeliness; and when we see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him" (Isaiah 53:2). What is it about Jesus, then, that made Him the most important man who ever lived?

First, Jesus is God.

According to the scriptures, Jesus is the only man who ever lived with the nature of man and the nature of God at the same time. In John 1:1 we read the following: "*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*" This word, God became "God with us" when He became flesh and dwelt among us (vs. 14; Matthew 1:23). The Hebrew writer said: "But to the Son He says: 'Your throne, O God, is

forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your Kingdom" (Heb. 1:8).

When Jesus spoke of God as His Father, He spoke the name of Father in a way that you and I never can - Jesus was *THE* Son of God. Everyone else is only a servant in the house (Hebrews 3:3).

Jesus is Christ. The gospel accounts begin with a declaration of Jesus as "Christ" (Matthew 1:1). Then this word is applied to Jesus some 176 more times in the New Testament. What does it mean? The word Christ means "anointed." It is the equivalent of the word "Messiah." Jesus was the one whom the prophets spoke of when they prophesied a coming savior and redeemer of mankind (Isaiah 53:5). He was the King whom the prophets foretold (Isaiah 9:6-7; Daniel 7:13-14). He was able to say with authority: "*before Abraham was, I am*" (John 8:58; see: Exodus 3:14).

Jesus is the lawgiver. According to John's gospel,

"...the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ" (John 1:17). Moses delivered to the Jewish people a code of laws which had to be kept perfectly (Galatians 3:10; James 2:10). Make no mistake, Jesus also brought a law that must be obeyed on penalty of sin (Galatians 6:2; Matthew 7:21). However, Jesus also is the fulfillment of the grace of God toward mankind. Our obedience to God is not what saves us, it is the blood of Christ which does that (1 Peter 1:18-19). However, our obedience is necessary to receive the gift of salvation (Hebrews 5:8-9). But, whatever God requires men to do in order to be saved, it is still a gift of His grace which cannot be earned (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Jesus brings salvation.

We are currently caught up in a world-wide panic over human disease, but we have not even begun to consider, as a people, the real problem that mankind faces, which is the problem of sin. Sin has the most severe consequence of all. The man who commits sin is worthy of the death penalty (Romans

6:23). The man who is not forgiven of his sins will die eternally. Jesus Christ was sent to save us from that awful fate. No other disease can so desperately affect us, and no physician can save us from sin. Sooner or later the coronavirus will fade into memory, but sin will continue for our whole history to destroy men and women. But, all the while, we will have the cure at our disposal. Jesus brought it and supplied it when He died for our sins (Acts 20:28; 1 Corinthians 5:7; Ephesians 1:7; Hebrews 9:11-12).

Jesus brought us hope. Life can be a lonely and hopeless affair for many people. Millions of people each year take their own lives because they cannot cope with the hopelessness. Sadly, they cannot see the hope that lies before them in Christ. The hope of fellowship with God is the hope that "*anchors the soul*" (Hebrews 6:19). If a man will obey the gospel, he has no reason to live in fear anymore. Sin, which brings dread has been removed by Christ.

Are you a Christian? Follow Jesus, the greatest man.